

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application.

Claims 1-23 are pending in the present application.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano (Reg.35,094) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By   
John A. Castellano, #35,094

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000

JAC:clb/cqc

(Rev. 04/19/2000)